

MAY 16.

MR. MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Twenty-eight persons present.

*Influence of Heat on the separate Sexes of Flowers.*—Referring to his former observations, in which it was noted that less heat was required to advance flowers than leaves, and still less for male than for female flowers, MR. MEEHAN called attention to a communication in an English scientific periodical, showing that the same facts may exist in the English climate as in our own. It appears that this season, according to the correspondent of *Hardwicke's Science Gossip*, the male flowers of the hazel-nut, *Corylus Avelana*, had been brought forward and perfected, before any signs of the female flowers appeared.

*Liquid Exudations in Akebia and Mahonia.*—MR. WM. M. CANBY called attention to the exudation of moisture from the tips of the leaflets in *Akebia quinata*, a plant twining over a trellis near his porch dripped moisture enough to make the floor look as if sprinkled. An examination of the leaflets by Prof. Rothrock disclosed an arrangement of the tissue at the apex of each leaflet, evidently adapted to such an exudation. MR. MEEHAN had been led by Mr. Canby's observations to watch closely a plant growing over a trellis on his house, confirming Mr. Canby's experience. The liquid globules on each leaflet were of the size of ordinary pin-heads. Their appearance was not constant, nor did there appear any regular period for the emission of the fluid. It was as likely to appear when the atmosphere was dry as when moist, or at midday as at evenings. The close relationship of *Lardizabalaceæ* to which *Akebia* belonged, to *Berberidaceæ*, led him to examine *Mahonia aquifolia*, flowering at the same time, and he found in many flowers just before expansion a small globule at the apex of the pistil, and in the same bud globules pressing through the divisions of the corolla. These would collect as they flowed out, and globules as large as peas, and of a quicksilvery hue, were not unfrequently found among the mass of flowers forming the densely fasciculated head. The fluid was of a viscid character. Only a few flowers exhibited the exudation at each examination, and he was led to believe that the flow in each flower was soon over. In *Thuja* there was also this sudden appearance of a small globule at the open mouth of the naked ovule, and which seemed to disappear very soon after its formation. In a large number of flowers examined only a few with globules at the apex were found at each examination. The liquid in this case did not disappear by evaporation, but seemed to be absorbed by